



January 26, 2006

Dear Stakeholder and Community Leader,

As a stakeholder and key partner with an interest in the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico, you are invited to participate in the **Gulf of Mexico Alliance Community Workshop** –The State of Louisiana. The **Alliance** has been formed to unite Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida on environmental issues related to the Gulf. Now is the time for the voice of Louisiana citizens to be heard. The community workshop will be an important opportunity to add your views to this effort. Your help is needed to identify priority needs to improve the Gulf of Mexico region.

In December 2004, the US Commission on Ocean Policy released recommendations for a new and comprehensive national ocean policy, emphasizing the need for integrated ecosystem-based management that transcends political boundaries. Today, the **Alliance** is setting an example by sharing science, expertise and financial resources to better protect the health of this complex ecosystem that is the Gulf of Mexico while securing a lasting underwater legacy for future generations. Results of the **Alliance Community Workshop** will be incorporated into a larger long-term Action Plan in response to the US Commission on Ocean Policy that will be unveiled at a November Summit in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The **Gulf of Mexico Alliance Community Workshop** will be held Tuesday, February 21, 2006; from **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** The event will be hosted by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), in partnership with coastal wetland stakeholders throughout Louisiana. The meeting will be held at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve at 314 St. Mary Street (Hwy 1) in Thibodaux, LA

As space is limited, please RSVP to join us. Contact Sandra Helmuth in the BTNEP office at (985) 447-0868 or email Sandra@btnep.org to **confirm your participation by February 13th**. If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments.

In order to make sure Louisiana issues are fully represented in all the stages of this report, I am asking for your full participation in the upcoming February meeting.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Kerry M. St. Pé".

Kerry St. Pé
Program Director, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program